



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 REGION 2
 290 BROADWAY
 NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

OCT 31 2006

Chief Oren Lyons, Co-Chair
 Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force
 Akwesasne Mohawk Territory
 Via Box 366
 Rooseveltown, NY 13683

Dear Chief Lyons:

Thank you for your recent letter addressing issues raised in my letter of July 17, 2006 to the Cayuga Nation Council of Chiefs concerning General Assistance Program (GAP) funding for the Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force (HETF).

On September 13, 2006 I wrote to Christopher Amato, counsel to Chief Samuel George, Chief William Jacobs, Chester Isaac, Heron Clan Mother Bernadette Hill, and Bear Clan Mother Inez Jimerson. In my letter, I acknowledge the great significance of the HETF funding matter to the Cayuga Nation and other Haudenosaunee nations. I further advise: "We are presently examining these complex and unusual issues further. Thus, at this time, my July 17, 2006 letter should not be viewed as a final decision."

Paul Simon, EPA Region 2 Deputy Regional Counsel, has now set up consultation meetings through Christopher Amato, and through Daniel French, counsel to Clint Halftown. Once we have had these opportunities for consultation, EPA will be in a better position to decide how best to proceed.

Grant Jonathan of my staff will continue to be EPA's Project Officer for the GAP grant to the HETF. Grant, who is Haudenosaunee (Tuscarora Nation Bear Clan), is quite familiar with Haudenosaunee culture and protocol. He assures me that he will continue to keep HETF Executive Director Joyce King, and Cayuga Nation Environmental technician Dan Hill fully apprised of developments.

I look forward to continuing to work with you, in mutual respect for the sovereignty of the governments we represent, to protect public health and the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Alan J. Steinberg", is written over a horizontal line.

Alan J. Steinberg
 Regional Administrator

cc: Joyce King, HETF Director